

Filed for intro on 02/02/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SB0618
By Jordan

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, to create
the Tennessee Reapportionment Commission

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, is amended by adding
Sections 2 through 9 of this act as a new chapter.

SECTION 2. There is hereby created the Tennessee Reapportionment
Commission. The commission shall recommend a plan for redistricting the districts
of the senate, house of representatives, and U. S. Congress after each federal
decennial census.

SECTION 3.

(a) The commission shall have eleven (11) members, as follows:

- 1) Two (2) members selected by the majority caucus in the
senate;
- 2) Two (2) members selected by the minority caucus in the
senate;

3) Two (2) members selected by the majority caucus in the house;

4) Two (2) members selected by the minority caucus in the house;

5) One (1) member each selected by the state executive committees of the major political parties in the state;

6) The attorney general and reporter, or his designee.

(b) Each member of the commission shall have a vote except the attorney general, who may vote only in case of a tie.

(c) The attorney general and reporter is chair of the commission.

(d)

1) No more than four (4) members of the commission may reside in any one (1) grand division;

2) No member of the commission may serve in an elected or appointed office, other than as a member of the senate or house of representatives if his or her selection was made through a senate or house caucus, during the term of service on the commission; and

3) No member of the commission may be a salaried employee of a political party organization.

(e) Members of the commission shall be paid the expense and mileage allowances provided for members of the general assembly by Section 3-1-106, but shall receive no other compensation for their services.

(f) Appointments to the commission shall be made no later than September 15 in the year of the release to the state of the official decennial census results.

(g) Vacancies shall be filled by the entity making the original appointment.

SECTION 4. The chair shall call the first meeting of the commission within three (3) weeks of the date of appointment of the other members. At the initial meeting, the commission shall adopt rules for its proceedings, select such other officers as it desires, and commence its business.

SECTION 5. In formulating the composition of senate, house of representatives, and congressional districts, the commission shall consider the following factors:

- 1) Equal distribution of population in congressional and legislative districts;
- 2) Compactness of districts and contiguity of territory;
- 3) Traditional neighborhood units and the integrity of such units;
- 4) Major streets and, to the extent possible, natural boundaries;
- 5) County boundary lines and, to the extent possible, municipal boundary lines;
- 6) Fair representation of racial and ethnic minorities; and
- 7) Other geographic or demographic data which will assist in the completion of the commission's work.

SECTION 6. The commission shall present its recommendations to the general assembly for approval no later than two (2) weeks before the date the general assembly convenes in regular session. Majority and minority reports may be presented to the general assembly for adoption.

SECTION 7. After presentation of its recommendations, the commission shall disband. No member of the commission may qualify to run for any office for which the commission has recommended boundary lines for four (4) years after the time recommendations were made, and no election commission shall place the name of such person on a ballot for any such office.

SECTION 8. All agencies and departments of the state, including state colleges and universities, shall cooperate with the commission and, upon request, provide technical assistance and consulting personnel.

SECTION 9. The senate and the house of representatives shall give full consideration to the recommendations of the commission when enacting legislative and congressional district boundaries.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.